

# THE Pleasant History of

CAWWOOD the ROOK.

OR,

The Assembly of Birds, with the severall  
Speeches which the Birds made to the EAGLE,

in hope to have the Government in his absence:

And lastly, how the ROOK was banished; with the Reason why crafty Fellows are called ROOKS.

As also fit Morals and Expositions added to every Chapter.



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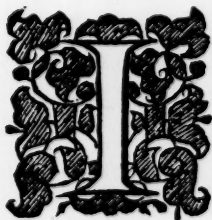




THE  
Pleasant History  
of Cawwood the Rook.

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CHAP. I.



**I**n the heat of Summer, when the Woods were lined with pleasant shade, and filled with the cheerfull Musick of the feather'd Queristers, It hapned that the Eagle, the royal King of Birds, intending to leabe off his government a while, & to live solitary in the Desarts of Arabia, made a Proclamation to be dratone in this manner. That seeing he purposed for some reasons best known unto himself, to retire unto the Arabian Desart, & for some few Monthes to leabe off all rule and dominion; he therefore tendring the welfare of his Subjects, and being carefull they might not lack one

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in his absence to administer Justice unto them, thought good to signifie his Royall Will and Pleasure, which was, that all Birds, of what name, colour, or degree soever, should repair unto the Wood, called Sylvia; and that there hee purposed to chuse one amongst them to rule the rest, who could declare himself to be most worthy in merit and desert. This Proclamation being written and subscribed with *Aquila Rex avium*, which is in English, The Eagle King of



Birds: It was no sooner made known through all thickets, hedges, and bushy fields where Birds doe resort, but that presently their hearts were inflamed with ambition, every one desiring to prove himself worthy of the Vice-regency or government, during the retiring of the King. So that in a short time there were come unto the Court of Sylvia, Robert the Robin, Mavis the Magpie, Philip the Sparrow, &c.



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the Blackbird, Starling, and Jackdaw, with Philomel the Nightingall, Tom Titmouse, Parvis the Wren, Spincke the Finch, Colamber the Dove, and Maybird the Cuckoo, with many others which came with prepared speeches to make knowne their own worth. But now the Eagle having seated himself on a high Cedar tree, began to look down upon the Assemblie of Birds, who sate upon the lower boughes roundabout him, and by the piercing quicknesse of his eye, he soon perceived that his cosen Rapax the Hawk, who was somewhat a kin unto him, and Cawwood the Rook were only absent. So that before he would make known his minde unto them, he sent Flywell the Buzzard for his cosen Rapax the Hawk, and Cawwood the Rook? and withall fearing that the Hawk kept out of the way, because he had committed many outrages upon the smaller birds, he sent him a free pardon for all his former offences, bidding Flywell to command him to come away with all speed.

### *The Marvell.*

**T**Here is no man hath so mean a conceit of himself, but he thinks he deserveth honour and preferment, as may appear by the Wren and the small Birds, who all resorted to the Court upon the Eagles Proclamation to make the worthiest Vice-regent in his absence. The Hawk and the Rook keeping away from Court; doth shew that a guilty conscience is a self accuser, and maketh men afraid to come in sight, especially at any publike meeting.

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## CHAP. II.

How Flywell the Buzzard carried a pardon to Rapax the Hawk, and how the Hawk and the Rook required him for his paines

**N**otwiser had Flywell the Buzzard tided the Pardon with a string round about his neck, but straight hee  
A 3 took

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tooke wing, and flew away to a Wood some three miles off, to which he knew the Hawke, and the Rooke did use to resort, and there accordingly he soon met with them, and delibered the Pardon to the Hawke, telling him that the King out of his free mercy, had sent him a Pardon for all his former bloody facts, wishing him to obey the former Proclamation, and to make all haste that could be to come unto the Court. The Hawke tooke the Pardon, and having read it, he gave Flywell the Buzzard many thanks, for that he being so short of wing, had tooke the pains to bring him these good tidings, and so walking aside with Cawwood the Rooke, as if they had consulted about going to the Court; the Hawke told the Rooke that this Buzzard, (albeit he was a kin unto him) was a shame and disgrace unto all Hawkes, being a Coward, and not daring to cease on any thing but dead Carrion, or some scattered guts, or to take chldzens bread and butter out of their hands, all which doe shew the baseness of his breeding, and that he never came out of the true Nest of Airy of the Hawkes; and therefore friend Rook, seeing thou hast been accounted a cunning Politician in thy days, I would intreat thee to instruct me in some device how we might make him away, and yet have no hand in the matter. The Rook scratching his head with one of his claws, stood still a while, till at last turning to the Hawke, he told him, that there was a new invention come into his brain how to make away the Buzzard, and set him going with a powder. After this they returned again unto Flywell the Buzzard, who never suspected what they had contrib'd against him, but complained unto them that he had gotten a great cold in his head, by flying so farre in a rainy day, hee being only us'd to haunt Warrens, and there to flie from one old tree to another, and so passe away the time. But no sooner had the Rook heard him say that he had gotten a cold, but hee presently took hold of the occasion, telling him that there was no better medicine for a cold than warmth, and therefore

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Therefore if he would but tie his head about with a cloath he should finde that the rheum would presently stop it self, and run out of his beake in a great abundance. The Buzzard being full of pain with the headach, contented thereunto, so that the Rook very carefully and cunningly tyed a clout round about his head, and so bid him flie to the next tree, The foolish Buzzard thinking he could finde out the way for all he was blindfolded, took wing, and flew directly against the body of a great Oake, which beat him backe so violently, that he came fluttering through the boughes, till at last he caught hold on one of them with his talons, and so having pearch'd himself, he thought to sit there, till the Hawk and the Rook.



his learned Physicians did come unto him ; but they flew unto another tree from whence they might behold the Buzzard sitting very demurely by himself, But he had not

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not late there long, when it hapned that one came by with a birding peece, and perceiuing so fair a mark, went towards him, and taking his aim gave fire, and shot the Buzzard that he came tumbling down stark dead. Which when the Rook & the Hawk perceived, they flew away toward the Court; the Hawk being very glad that his Cousen Buzzard was brought to this end, and so giuing the Rook many thanks for inuenting this devise which had so luckily took effect, they both flew together to the Court.

### *The Morall.*

SOME are so blindfolded that they cannot discern danger before it come upon them, as may appear by the Buzzard, who was blindfolded in the tree, till the Fowler came by and shot him. The Hawk bringing his Cousen Buzzard to an untimely death; sheweth, that the rich doe despise their poor kindred, and so doe expose them to danger.

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## CHAP. III.

How Rapax the Hawk, and Cawwood the Rook came to the Court, and how the Eagle declared unto the Birdes the reason why he called them together.

THE Eagle being, as before, mounted upon a Cedar, all the Birds in a circle sat round about him, making such a charm of severall notes, tunes and ditties, that if you had heard them, you would have sworn you had never heard the like. As they were thus sitting together in came the Hawk and the Rook with nimble wing, and took their place amongst the other Birds. And so the Hawk having made obeysance to the King, began in an eloquent speech, to amplify the Kings mercy, who had not only granted him a free pardon for all his former bloody offences, but also safe protection to come unto that place,

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place. But the Eagle cut him off in his speech, saying, Cousin, I hope my mercy shall find that reward which I expect, which is, that you will amend your life, for that is the best way to give me thanks; and satisfy the whole commonwealth of Birds, who else, though they dare not speak yet openly, yet in their hearts, they will condemne me of injustice, for remitting the bloody murders, and slaughters of my subjects which you have daily committed, But I have, other matters to declare unto you, and therefore I would have you give attention, and so with his Scepter which he held in one of his talons) making a signe unto them for silence. He began his Royall speech in this manner: My loving Subjects, it behobeth a King to be carefull of his Subjects, even from the highest to the lowest; I therefore doe here confesse, that all my subjects are equally deare unto me, so that my Cousin the Hawk is not more deare unto me than the little Wren. It behobeth me therefore that as I have made known my purpose unto you by my Proclamation, which is, to leade my Court of Sylvia and fly into the solitary Desarts of Arabia; so it is necessary for the establishing of peace and quiet in my absence, that I leade one to rule and governe over you; and to this end I have called you to this Assembly, that whatsoever Bird among you can prove himself to be the worthiest, either by parentage, merit or desert, or any other way, him I will make King in my absence. Therefore let every one speak boldly in the behalf of themselves, and urge what reasons they can in their owne practise. The Birds hearing this began to clap their wings and with chirping and chattering gave a great applause to the Eagles speech.

### *The Morall.*

**T**hat when a wicked offender receives mercy, either from the King or a Magistrate, he cannot shew more Thankfulness than by amending his life; for so the Kingly Eagle told his cousin Rapax the Hawk. Kings ought

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ought to take care of their Subjects in their absence, as appeareth by the Eagles Speech to the Commonalty of Birds, whose rejoycing therat, does shew how acceptable the gracious Speech of a King is to his loving Subjects.

How Parvis the Wren made a speech unto the Eagle.

**T**he Wren all this while saile upon thornes, though indeed she were now upon a higher tree than eber she was in her life before, being alwayes wont to creepe and peep in the hedge bottomes, and therefore it seemes that the height of the tree had put high conceits into her head. So that perking up her self, and getting upon a small twigge, from whence she might be seen of all the company, she began most earnestly to desire the Kingly Eagle to make her his substitute; for sayes she, though I am but a Wren, and of a small body, yet my heart is as bigge as the best; and for my wit and policy, you may see it in building my nest, and the workmanship therof. And therefore though I am least of Birds, yet if you please, I thinke my self worthy to bear the greatest authority among the Birds. The wren would still have gone on, being all heart and tongue; but that the Eagle commanded Rupert the Robin to speake next.

*The Morrall.*

**T**his sheweth that men of least desert will put themselves most forward, as is seen by the wren preferring herself before all other Birds, and the reason is because, those that have the least worth, have the greatest opinion of themselves.

How Rubert the Robin spake to the Eagle.

**M**y Lord the Eagle, I hope Rubert the Robin is not unknowne unto you, whom men, women, and children, doe love, honour, and respect; no force is discharged against me, no snare set for me, so that I live with

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With safetie into houses, butteries, and cellers, because no man will hurt a Robin. The reason why I am beloved is for my courtesse and familiarity towards men, for if I finde a dead body in the Wood, I and the rest of my fellows doe bury it with Moss and Leaves, and for this I am called the Sexton of the Wood: Besides, I sing in Winter, neither can the coldest frosts put me to shew, when all the other Birds like cowards creep into bushes, I therefore having the better heart, and being generally beloved, doe know no reason why I may not governe the Common-wealth of Birds in your royall absence.

*The Morrell.*

IT is some Argument of worth in our selves when we are beloved of others, is appeares by the speech of Rupert the Robin, who urges it as a praise unto himself to be beloved of men.

## The Owles Speech.

THE Owle being not in those times afraid of the other Birds, but esteemed as a grave Counsellor, began to speake next; but with such a hollow voyce, as no man could understand him, yet some of his words were to this purpose. May it please your royall Eagleship, the Owle was beloved of Pallas, and the Lacedemonians did copen their money with the stampe and picture of an Owle, so much did the Lacedemonians love me. But the Birds hearing the Owle speak of the Lacedemonians, they fell all into a confused chirping or laughter, so that the Owle, without taking any leave flew away, and ever since that time hath hid his head in an old Ivy tree, being ashamed of day-light, and shunning the company of the other Birds,

*The Morrell.*

THAT when men will strive to shew learning at unreasonable times, it makes them prove ridiculous, as appeares by the Owle, who was laughd at for his learned speech of the Lacedemonians.

## The History of *Camwood* the Rake.

### The Speech of Philomel the Nightingall.

**A**fter the Owle was laughed out of countenance. The Nightingall began to delight their eares with her sweet harmonious voyce; and no sooner had she framed her self to speak, but the Birds were ready to give attendance to her speech; which was in this manner. Most royal! Soberaign, if I should declare my sorowes which I receo'd by night, making the Thorne my Song-booke, I know it would move you to compassionate my unjust ravishment; for know, that I was daughter to a King, and ravished by my Sister Progenes husband, called Terenceus, and afterward by some strange power, we were all changed into Birds; Terenceus into a Lapwing, my Sister Progne into a Swallow, and I Philomel into a Nightingall, who still in lamentable tunes, setting my brest a gainst a thorne, I warble forth my owne greife. And seing every bird hath free liberty to praise her self, I may boldly say, that I am the honour of the Woods, the darling of the Spring, the Nobles joy; for young men and maides will walke out together to heare my notes, and if they heare me before May-bird the Cuckoo, they are in good hope they shall enjoy their sweet hearts that yetre. I am called Philomel for my melodious straines, my body is little, my voyce is loud, so that one said of me, Vox es præterea nihil: That I was only a voyce and nothing else. If therefore my great birth, my former wrongs, or pleasant tunes have any power to declare my merit, I hope the Crown and Scepter may be worthily resigned unto me, having been sometime a Kings Daughter, and therefore fit to be made Queen of the Woods.

*The Morall.*

**I**njured vertue is pittied of all men, which made Philomel declare the story of her ravishment, and by the Birds giving so diligent attention unto her, is shewed that a well delivered speech hath a great power over the mind and affections.



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### The Cuckoos Speech.

**M**aybird the Cuckoo, having heard the sweet speech which Philomel had made, thinking he could have made as good himself, for yet he had not sucked so many egges to make him hoarse, and therefore getting upon a bared bough, he began to wipe his beake, and rubbe it upon the tree, afterwards he fluttered his wings, and at last, fetching his breath as if he meant to make a long speech, he began in this manner. Great King, I am the Cuckoo, Cuckoo, Cuckoo, & so he could goe no further but still cried Cuckoo, Cuckoo, whereat all the other Birds laugh'd, and the Cuckoo was much dismayd, and since then he will neber be seen of the Birds but only in May, and for that reason he is called the Maybird.

### *The Morrall.*

**T**his shewes that great preparations, have small performances, and that those whose braires seem to be in labour with a Mountaine, doe at last bring forth a Mouse, as may be perceived by Maybird the Cuckoo, who made them beleieve that she had great matters to speak, and at last could say nothing but Cuckoo, Cuckoo, and so was laugh'd at for her painer.

### The Speech of Corvino the Crow.

**W**hen the Cuckoo had ended with shame, as she began with great ostentation. Then Corvino the Crow stood up, and told them he was a great Astrologer, having knowledge in the influence of the starres, the shiftings of the winds, the change of the weather, all which he made knowne unto men by voyce, so that the Shepheards are wont to say,

When the Crow doth cry amaine,

Then you may be sure of raine.

Bestes, my craft and cunning it is such, that I am seldom insnar'd and brought to ruine, and therefore I ought for my policy to be prefer'd. If a horse chance to die, I am presently upon his bones; or if a Lambe or Sheep be weak, I pick out his eyes, and afterward doe fly to some tree

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and from thence do hear how the Shepheards curse me, but yet for all that I thizbe the better. If therefore Policy or knowledge in affaires may enable one for publike government, you may make me your Substitut, & deliver the Crowne unto the Crow, for to him it belongeth, if desert may bear it away. *The Morrall.*

**T**Hose that have no knowledge, will presume many times to be professors of Arts, so that every Art hath some ignorant fellowes, who will pretend to have skill therein, as Mountebankes will needs be Phisicians, and fellowes with a little Latine will needs be Schollers, as the Crow, because he cries sometimes before raine, would therefore needs be an Astrologer.

The Speech of Mavis the Magpy.

**T**He Magpy after this began to chatter out her minde saying, he was once a King, and so was changed into a Pye, and therefore he might now againe be changed from a Pie into a King. Besides, saith he, I have been alwayes esteemed as a Poet, for I can make Verses, and chatter them out so fast that you would wonder at it, and I can tell you the Commonwealth of birds have much delighted in my Songs and Ditties, being excellent Rhyime with some reason, and therefore I thinke they have reason to applaud me: and for proove of my skill you shall heare some of my Verses.

Although I am no Iackedaw,  
Nor house Crow that cryeth Caw.

Yet I am a Magpie,

That can make sweet melody.

And sing so in my mothers tongue,

That all birds shall admire my song.

And no sooner had he spoke these Verses, but the Magpie seeing the birds laugh at him, he swore they were very good lines, and that they had no more wit then Wood-Cockes, or else they would have peats'd them.

*The Morrall.*

**B**Ecause this Morrall will be offensive to some Magpies in the world, I will deliver the Morrall in two Verses

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Verſes out of *Perſius* the Poet, treating of the ſame matter.

*Corvus Poetas, & poetrias picas,*

*Cantare credas, Pegaficium melos.*

Crow Poets, and Poeticke pies,

Doe think they make ſweet Mellodies.

The Speech of Anſer the Goole.

**A**fter this, Anſer the Goole, and Coby the Cock, ha-  
ving by chance heard the Proclamation as they were  
ſtanding under a hedge, they came flying thither, but being  
not able to light upon a tree the Goole and the Cock ſtood at  
the bottom of the tree; which when the Eagle perceived, he  
came down to them, and all the birds ſate round about upon  
the ground. When the Goole began to ſpeak in this man-  
ner. Albeit I am eſteemed a cowardly bird, becauſe when I  
goe under a barne doze I ſtoope down my head, yet I can  
ſpeak much in my ſtone behalf: for to begin with former  
times I only by my gagling voyce ſab'd the Capitoll of Rome  
from being taken by the enemy, as I know your Eagleſhip  
haſt read in hiſtories: beſides, if I come unto theſe times,  
how could the Lawyers Clerks or Scribener make the  
poor countymen pay for their Law, unleſſe I lent them  
quills to write their bills and bonds. So that I thinke the  
Gaggeſe wing may be as much feared now, as in the old  
time when they headed their arrows with my feathers; for  
then many times they loſt their lives, & now their lands, while  
the ſheepe affords the parchment, and I afford the pen, with  
which the Prodigall ſets his hand to the ſeale, or Mortgage  
of his whole Patrimony. Beſides, I have a great many  
two legg'd kindred in the world, who yet ſcorne to acknow-  
ledge me, but the world knowes them to be Geſe. And  
therefore conſidering how neceſſary I am, I hope you will  
gibe me preheminance aboue the other birds: After him the  
Cock ſpoke as ſolloweth.

Coby the Cocks Speech.

**I**Am Coby the Cock, or the bird of Mars, I fight ſingle  
combats, and from the Cockpit I beare away the bloody  
victory: I am the Country Clocke, and tell the Peaſes  
when tis time to riſe, I call up the labourer to his worke, and  
proclaime

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Proclaime day-light ober the whole world. I am lobing to my hens, respected of my Dame that keepes me, and fed with the best barley she could get, and in requitall I tread her hens lustily, and make them lay egges. To conclude, I am come of a generous kind, being the true Embleme of valour, and so necessary that the world could not tell how to doe for Egges at Szobettsde if the Cock should faile. And therefore if the matter might be decided by hogges, I know the Country wibes would desire to have me made King, for they doe all love a good treading Cock.

### The Jackdawes Speech,

**T**hough I am last to take boldnesse to speak, yet I hope you will consider that I am an excellent Linguist, and have the knowledge of many Languages, so that when we Jackdawes are got together about a steeple, we make a chattering noise like so many Welchmen. Besides, I have some rich treasure which lies hid in the croone of a tree, as namely, beades, tagges of points, pewter spoones, and divers other things, which I meant to present unto your Excellencie, for it is my nature to hide whatsoever I find. Besides, for my Language (as I said before) I can speak Latin, Greek, Hebrew, French, Italian as easily as my mother tongue, but indeed few can understand me, and therefore I doe lose that praise which I deserve. However, I hope you will consider my worthinesse, and place me as your substitute, during the time that your Excellencie shall be absent in the Desert of Arabia. And so ends Jackdaw, praying for your long life, and to give you a taste of my Languages, *Levat le Roy Tòv Elov feliciſſimum.*

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## CHAP. IV.

How the Eagle having heard the Birds severall speeches did make a speech to them againe, and at last made his Cousin Rapax the Hawk Vice-regent in his absence.

**T**he Eagle like a wise King having all this while collected the chief matter of their speeches, he began to speak unto them in this manner. My loving Subjects, I have heard

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heard what you have spoken in the behalf of your selves. You Robert have pleaded well for your self, and so have you Lady Philomel, and all the rest, whose names for brevity sake I omit. But yet you have not shewed me any vertues worthy of royall dignity. For in that Philomel was a Kings daughter, and Mavis the Pye was sometime a King, yet these are but the fictions of Poets, and I had rather have you make it appeare that your bests are filled with Justice, Temperance, Magnanimity, Mercy, and such other Vertues, which are required in a King. For to boast of Parentage, or gifts of Nature, as your faire white feathers, or of Art, as Languages, Learning and the like, they may be esteemed ornaments to private men: but Princes should have Power to make them fear'd, and Vertue to make them be beloved, but in none of you I find these qualities: and therefore since you have all spoken your mindes I would faine know why my Cousen Rapax the Hawk hath sate mute all this while. The Hawk hearing himself named by the Eagle, answered thus. May it please your highnesse, I know that my former offences, and bloody murders are so odious and hatefull in the sight of the birds, that I dare not open my beake to pronounce a syllable in my own behalf. But yet might it please them to remit and forgive my former offences, and pardon what is past, I would promise (if so be your Majesty should make me your Substitute) to rule over the Commonwealth of Birds, with Justice, temperance, and equity; instead of killing and slaying them with my Talons, I would protect them from the injury of Woles and other blood-suckers, who in the Winter eveninges doe pull the small birds out of the bushes, and so prey upon them, when they should spend their dayes peaceably, sleep securely, sing sweetly, feed plentifully, and live merrily. And besides, as I have power to sway the Empire, so I promise to rule over the Commonwealth of Birds, with Justice and equity, and to give them the better assurance that I will not prove a Tyrant, I am willing to have my Talons pared off. Wherefore if the birds doe like of my offer, to shew their consent thereunto, let them clap their wings. Which was no sooner heard, but the Birds on condition that the Hawkes talons should be pared off, then

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all cryed with one voyce : *Fiat Rex Rapax*. Let the Hawk be King.

*The Morrall.*

**A** Cuning dessembler will alwayes cover his Vice with the death of Vertue, as may be seene by the Hawkes speech, who promising to ride with justice amongst them, got so farre into the opinion of the birds, that they were content to chuse him King, to avoid further strife amongst themselves. Take heed therefore of faire speeches, for all their words are mingled with dissimulation.

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### CHAP. V,

How *Rapax* the Hawk had his talons pared off, and how the Eagle had resigned his Scepter unto him, and made him King of the birds.

**A**fter the birds had consented to the Hawkes speech. The Hawk, because they had no edge toyles amongst them, put his talons into the clift of a tree, and so neber lest pulling, till he had pulled them quite off, and yet the hope of Soberaignety was so sweet unto him that he felt no pain therein. Being thus unable to hurt. The Eagle rose out of his seat, and caused the Hawk to sit therein, and afterward delivered his Scepter unto him, and put his Crown upon his head, and then charged him to remember his promise, which was, to have a care of his subjects, and be loving unto them; as also to heare their complaints, to redresse their greivances, and to yeld them relief. And this sae you perforce, as you tender o; respect your owne life, for if at my returne from the Arabian Desart, I find that you have wronged my Subjects, you shall be sure to die for it. The Hawk answered, that he hoped his Majestie should commend him at his returne, and not find any just cause of punishment, for though I have ben here ofore counted cruell, and have plumed upon the carcasie of many a small bird, as Larkes, and Sparrowes, and sometimes upon Doves, Partridges, Quasses, and the like, yet now your subjects shall find me full of mercy, for indeed I was then enforced to be cruell by necessity. At these wordes the Eagle took him to taking some

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birds had accompanied him some part of the way, he sent them back again, charging them to be carefull to obey the Hawk in all things. And so flew on to the Desert of Arabia.

*The Morrall.*

**T**He nature of man is given to seek honour, which he thinkes to be a sufficient reward for all his sufferings, as may appear by the Hawk, who could endure to plucke off his owne Talons, in hope to be made King.

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### CHAP. VI.

How the Hawk behaved himself after the departure of the Eagle, and how he requited Cawwood the Rook for teaching him to make away the Buzzard, as is shewed in the first Chapter.

**T**He Eagle being gone, the Hawk behaved himself very lovingly for the first week; as Nero, the first sibe peares of his raigne was counted the best of Kings, but afterward he proved the worst of Tyrants: so the Hawk disguised his nature for a week or fortnight, but afterward he had a great desire to shed blood, and therefore he began to thinke how he might put Cawwood the Rook, to death, and requite him for his former kindnesse in betraying the Buzzard, and making him stand blind-folded with a clout about his head. till one came by and shot him with a birding-piece. Now to bring this to passe, he called many of the little birds together, and told them, that what cruelty hee had formerly committed, was by the encouragement of the Rook, who made him beleve, that seeing nature had allotted him no other food, it was lawfull for him to prey upon all sorts of birds and that now he was afraid lest he should put into his mind, the same bloody principles again, and therefore to avoid suspicion: My loving Subjects, saith he if any of you can accuse him of any heinous crime (as I know hee is guilty of many) I will grant you a day of hearing against him, that so, if hee cannot clear himself, he may suffer the punishment of death, which is due unto his deserts: No sooner had the Hawk spoken these words, but presently they told his Majesty, that they had every one cause to complain against him



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him, and therefore if he were once summoned to the Court, they would be all ready to accuse him.

### *The Morall*

**T**hey who employ others in wickedness, never love them any longer, than till their own purpose is effected, as may appeare by the Hawk, who sought the life of the Rook, after he had us'd his invention to make away the Buzzard. So that he which furthens a mans vice, is belov'd while it is doing, but is hated when tis done.

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## CHAP. VII.

How *Cawwood* the Rook was called to the Court to answer for himself, and how all the small birds brought in their accusations against him.

**T**he Hawk began now to make known his bloody nature, and therefore sent Corvino the Crow to summon the Rook to appeare at the Court of Sylvia, who accordingly came at the day appointed, not doubting to receive any injury from the Hawk, being alwayes his friend, and therefore not fearing that now being made King, he would use his power to his destruction, but it proved far other wise, for no sooner was *Cawwood* come unto the Hatoes presence but the Hawk commanded him to stand forth and answer to such matters as should be laid against him, for saies he, friend Rook there are many complaints made against you and I must doe justice, as I promised the Eagle at his departure. When the Rook heard this, he began to change colour, & his feathers began to stand up on end, what thought he shall I be betrayed by a Traytor? yet at last seeing no remedy, he was faine to stand to it, while the Birds gathered round about him, being all ready to complaine against him, and first Rubert the Robert began his enditement.

### *The Morall.*

**T**Yrants doe alwayes pretend an outward shew of justice, as may be scene by the Hawkes speech to *Cawwood* the Rooke, who being affraid thereof, does shew that a guilty conscience is a thousand miseries.



## The History of *Cawwood the Rook.*

### CHAP. VIII.

How Robert the Robin complained against *Cawwood the Rook.*

**I** Am glad that we small Birds have now free liberty to shew our wrongs and gréevances, which we have received from *Cawwood the Rook*, who upon a time brought me in danger of my life, for one day as he and I were walking in a field by a hedge side, we chanced to come to where there was a turf set up with two stiches, and a little hole digged underneath it; I began to aske him what it was. He saies he, doe you not know what this is? then you have lost many a faire woyme, for it is never without one or two, and therefore (saies he) if you hop into the bottomne of it you shall find my wordes true, but quoth I, is there no danger in it? He (saies he) He warrant you for danger, whereupon I believing him, leapt upon the forked Dick, and no sooner was I ligh ted thereon, but presently the turfe fell upon my head, so that I was made close prisoner in the Pittfall and there I continued, till at last a waggish boy, who had made the Pittfall, came and toke me out, and with great ioy carried me to his mother, but she telling him it was ill luck to hurt a Robin, at last the boy was content onely to cut off my tayle and let me flye, whereby I escaped the danger that the Rook had brought me into, and therefore I desire that we may have justice on him.

The Sparrowes complaint,

**W**ith the same malicious minde though not in the same manner, *Cawwood the Rook* brought me in danger and pezell of my life for one frosty morning there being a great many Limestrakes set on a dunghill, *Cawwood the Rook* went amongst them, and spring me upon the top of a Earne, called me downe unto him, and bid me come to him, for there were a great many Wheat eares scattered on the ground, whereupon I being somewhat hungry, by reason of the cold frosty weather, came flying to him, and no sooner had I begun to peck on one of the eares, but straight the end of one of the limestrakes caught me by the back, and another under the wing, so that I had much a doe

## The History of *Cawwood the Rook.*

to get from thence, for when he that watcht the straws, saw me limed and taken, he came running out to catch mee, but then with all the strength I had, I made towards a hedge and having gotten into the bottom thereof, escaped the fowlers hands. Thus I was betrayed by *Cawwood the Rook*, and I think there is no Bird but hath some accusation against him.

### The Complaint of the Woodcock,

**M**ay it please you, I was once coming through a wood with this *Traytor Cawwood the Rook*, and as we went, there was two or three sticks set just crosse the path, with one great bended stick, whereon was a noose of hair. And as we came to them, I asked the *Rook* what this meant why says he it is a snare, whereon I am wont many times to stretch my self, at these words like a *Woodcock* as I was, I went to take hold of the great stick, and thought to have swong upon it, but no sooner had I set my foot upon the *Bridge* but the *Spring* flew up, and caught me by one of the legs, so that there I lay upright, and looking every houre when the *Fowler* would come to fetch me, and if the haire noose had not broken, I had certainly long ere this been roasted, and served up to some rich mans Table. The *Woodcock* had no sooner ended his complaint, but there came in a *Thrush* and a *Starling* like maimed *Souldiers* hopping upon one legge, and seeing *Cawwood the Rook* standing at the barre. The *Thrush*, because she was the better speaker began to tell their case, how that *Cawwood the Rook* made them believe that a *Widdowes* peece was but a pipe which men use to play upon, whereupon one mozing a *Fowler* coming towards us with a *Peece*, we thinking to heare his pipe, sat still, so that he taking his aime discharged against us, and shot me into the legge, and my brother *Sterling* into the wing. Thus hath the *Rook* with his craft deceived us many times, and many a bird hath he brought to untimely end by his cunning. We beseech the *Hawk* therefore (who we heare is left substitute in the *Eagles* absence) that he would punish the cruelty of the *Rook*.

## The History of *Cawwood the Rook.*

### CHAP. IX.

How *Cawwood the Rook*, would have answered for himself, but that *Rapax the Hawk* would not suffer him, but condemned him to perpetuall banishment.

**W**hen *Rapax the Hawk* had heard these accusations, against the *Rook*, he was very glad thereof. And yet (as it is the nature of cunning trechery) he seemed to pittie his calamitie, and told him he was sorry to heare so many foule matters urged against him. I habe alwayes (sayes he) had a good opinion of you, but I see how much we may be deceived. And I wish that some other might gibe judgment on your crimes and offences, but yet since it hath pleased the *Eagle* to gibe me all power, and to put the Scepter of iustice into my talons, there shall no respect of friendship sway me, and therefore you must look for no more mercy at my hands, then iustice will permit. For albeit you are my friend, yet I must probe my self a loyal subject to the *Eagle*, who hath put me in trust to see rewards and punishments equally distributed amongst his subjects, and this I take to be the true nature of Iustice. At these words the *Rook* began to prepare himself, and would faine have answered the obiection of his adversaries, beginning to shew that it was not his craft, but their folly which brought them into danger; for (saith he) if *Rubert the Robin* will needs be peeping into a Pitfall who can help it? or if the *Woodcock* will take a Springe for a Swinge it is not my cunning but their simplicitie which brings them into danger, which by escaping they have learned more wit, and so ought in iustice to gibe me thanks, for now they know how to avoyd the like perills hereafter. Besides all this, you that sit to condemne me, ought not to seeke my life, but to save me from my enemies, for you know how for your sake I contrib'd an excellent device to make away *Fliwell the Buzzard*. But at that word the *Hawk* commanded them to stop his mouth, and that with a noise of haire they should forthwith strangle him. When the *Rook* saw there was no way but death, he began to intreate for mercy wherupon the  
Hawk

## The History of *Cawwood the Rook*.

Hawk considering better with himself, pronounced this sentence against him. In regard that thou Cawwood the Rook hast highly transgressed and offended against the Commonwealth of Birds, by deceiving Philip the Sparrow, Rubert the Robin, and Longbill the Woodcock, I doe here banish thee out of the Country, and send thee to live for ever in the City. Since which time the City hath been alwayes full of Rookes. For no sooner was the sentence given but the Parliament of Birds broke up, and the Rook flew away to the City, where he hath ever since remained, there being divers sorts of Rookes, as for example, your cheating Gamester is a Rook, and your fellows that cheate Country men are Rookes, the Tapster that fills not his pot is a Rook, and he that drinks with you and slips away when the reckoning comes to be payd is a Rook. And to conclude, there are so many sorts of Rookes that I cannot reckon them, for sometimes your Rook will be in the shape of a decayd gallant, sometimes in a thredbare Cloake waiting at Bowling Allies, sometimes in a blew Jerkin like a Country man, and sometimes in the Market in the shape of a Cutpurse. And therefore I would have Countrymen buy this Book, for though it be the History of the Rook, yet it will not cost them so dear, as the acquaintance of these City Rookes.

### *The Morall.*

CRAZIE fellows, albeit they scape a great while, yet at last are brought to ruine and disgrace, for if they come once to publicke tryall, then all their enemies are ready to accuse them, as appeareth by the Rook, who after all his cunning trickes was at last banished to live in the City: so that your Rook is born in the Country, and bred in the City, and this is the concluding Morall of this Chapter.

FINIS.